

State Efforts to Address Substance Abuse

OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

Project Scope

May 2005

In Idaho, a variety of state agencies address or are directly impacted by substance abuse problems, including the Department of Health and Welfare, the Department of Correction, the Department of Juvenile Corrections, the Department of Education, Idaho State Police, and the Idaho Judiciary. The responsibilities of these agencies include drug and alcohol related law enforcement activities, and substance abuse treatment and prevention.

In March 2005, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee directed the Office of Performance Evaluations to review efforts provided or funded by the state that address substance abuse in Idaho. Lawmakers expressed interest in understanding the extent of state services provided to address substance abuse, and the direct costs of the problem to the state budget. In addition, they requested a review of the availability, accessibility, and adequacy of substance abuse treatment offered through the state, and an assessment of the efforts to implement the Access to Recovery grant.

This evaluation will focus on the following questions:

- What state agency activities directly address substance abuse problems? What are the agency revenues and expenditures for these activities? How has the impact of substance abuse on the state budget changed over time?
- What steps have been taken to oversee and coordinate agency efforts to address substance abuse? How effective have those efforts been?
- What substance abuse treatment options, both public and private, are currently available to Idaho citizens? What citizens are eligible for treatment programs offered through the state? How well does the state meet the treatment demand for eligible citizens? Are state programs consistent with state and federal requirements and guidance?
- What information exists on the effectiveness of treatment services offered through the state? Is outcome data collected for these treatment programs? How do the types of treatment programs offered through the state compare to those that research has shown to be effective? How do these treatment programs compare to those provided through other states?
- What steps have been taken to implement the Access to Recovery grant program? Are current and anticipated uses of funds consistent with federal requirements and guidance? What data is being collected for monitoring and assessing program outcomes?